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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/863,316	05/24/2001	Zongxuan Jin	100967-00011	1362

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EXAMINER

JAGOE, DONNA A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1614

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/863,316

Applicant(s)

JIN, ET AL.

Examiner

Donna A. Jagoe

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 October 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

***Claims 5-12 are pending in this application.***

***Claims Objections***

Claims 5 and 9 are objected to because of the following informalities: the recitation of the treatment of individuals "in need" of the treatment of a certain condition is missing. Appropriate correction is required. A physician will typically examine many patients with various pathologies, and only some will have a particular disease requiring a particular treatment. It has been traditional in United States practice to recite the treatment of individuals "in need" of the treatment of a certain condition so as to indicate that particular subset of patients actually in need of intervention; an alternative is to recite the treatment of an individual "suffering from" a given disease. Accordingly, the following format is preferred for claiming methods of treating: "A method for treating disease X comprising administering to an individual suffering from/in need of such treatment an effective amount of agent Y". Claims not specifying the subset of patients to be treated in this manner are generally viewed as being anticipated by any prior art

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method using a given agent since they read on administration to the general population and not a specified subset requiring treatment.

Claims 7, 8, 11 and 12 are objected to because of the following informalities: It is suggested that the applicant put the claims in Markush claim language by amending the claim to recite "the method of claim X where said administering step is comprised of administering the composition by a route selected from the group consisting of oral, intraperitoneal, intravenous and topical means. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 5, 7-9 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Yamada et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,165,982 A.

The claims are drawn to a method of inhibiting skin cancer in a mammal comprising administering a composition comprising sericin or a hydrolysis product of sericin. The composition is administered orally, intraperitoneally, IV and topically. Yamada et al. teach sericin as an antioxidant useful to inhibit tyrosinase activity. It does not teach the compositions to be used in the instantly claimed method of inhibiting skin cancer. Applicants' attention is directed to *Ex parte Novitski*, 26 USPQ2d 1389 (BOPA 1993) illustrating anticipation resulting from inherent use, absent a *haec verba* recitation for such utility. In the instant application, as in *Ex parte Novitski*, supra, the claims are directed to preventing a malady or disease with old and well known compounds or compositions. It is now well settled law that administering compounds inherently

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possessing a protective utility anticipates claims directed to such protective use.

Arguments that such protective use is not set forth *haec verba* are not probative. Prior use for the same utility clearly anticipates such utility, absent limitations distancing the proffered claims from the inherent anticipated use. Attempts to distance claims from anticipated utilities with specification limitations will not be successful. At page 1391, *Ex parte Novitski*, supra, the Board said "We are mindful that, during the patent examination, pending claims must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allow. *In re Zletz*, 893 F.2d 319, 13 USPQ2d 1320 (Fed. Cir. 1989). As often stated by the CCPA, "we will not read into claims in pending applications limitations from the specification." *In re Winkhaus*, 52 F.2d 637, 188 USPQ 219 (CCPA 1975)". In the instant application, Applicants' failure to distance the proffered claims from the anticipated prophylactic utility, renders such claims anticipated by the prior inherent use.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation

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under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 5-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,165,982 A.

The claims are drawn to a method of inhibiting skin cancer in a mammal comprising administering a composition comprising sericin or a hydrolysis product of sericin wherein the average molecular weight of sericin is from 5,000 to 100,000 and the composition is administered orally, intraperitoneally, IV and topically.

Yamada et al. teach that diseases such as cancer may be at least partly caused from the lipid peroxide produced and accumulated in vivo. In order to solve such problems antioxidants have been utilized (column 1, lines 15-33). Further, Yamada et al. teach that sericin is an antioxidant.

It does not teach the sericin to be utilized as a skin cancer preventative agent.

It would have been obvious to employ sericin, a known antioxidant, to inhibit a skin cancer since it is well known by one of ordinary skill in the art that antioxidants are effective in for inhibiting skin cancer. Motivation to employ the antioxidant comes from the teachings of Yamada et al. that cancer may be at least partly caused from the lipid peroxide produced and accumulated and that antioxidants have been used to solve such problems and further that sericin is a strong antioxidant.

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Thus the claims fail to patentably distinguish over the state of the art as represented by the cited references.


No claims are allowed.

### **Correspondence**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donna A. Jagoe whose telephone number is (703) 306-5826. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marianne Seidel can be reached on (703) 308-4725. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3230 for regular communications and (703) 872-9307 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

dj   
November 18, 2002

FREDERICK KRAUS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 1600

